

2014 TEEA Winner Youth Category: Archer Samuel Hadley, Austin

Archer Hadley, Eagle Scout

This project was my eagle scout project and I called the Wildflower Center and got in touch with Ms. Minnette Marr.

That is a picture of painstaking work right there.

Minnette Marr, Plant Conservationist, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

When Archer first approached us, I really underestimated what an eagle scout would do for a project.

Frank Carmichael, Hornaday Conservation Project Advisor

I remember for this particular project, he showed some slides and a video to get the scouts enthusiastic about following his lead.

Rob Plowes, Research Scientist, Brackenridge Field Lab, University of Texas at Austin

The Texas ash is threatened by the emerald ash borer.

Archer Hadley

And it was killing thousands of ash trees and I just saw pictures of these trees just dying from the inside out, basically being chewed up.

Minnette Marr

I said “Archer, we need seeds from at least five Texas ash trees.” He organized his troop into groups.

Archer Hadley

It was like 70 or 65 people.

Minnette Marr

He gave us a map. He had the directions. He had the GPS units. The trees had been flagged so people would know exactly what tree they were going to.

Archer Hadley

There was a ton of hunting and getting back with Minnette, sending her pictures saying “Is this one correct? Or is this one correct? Or what are we looking for?”

Minnette Marr

Before it was all over, I believe he had found about 40 Texas ash trees.

Archer Hadley

They're still counting the seeds that we've collected. Right now, I think it's somewhere up to 50 or 60,000 seeds.

Rob Plowes

He is a great natural born leader. He motivates people. It's hard to describe all the ways in which Archer is an inspiration.

Archer Hadley

My passion and my drive for this was just to give back what nature had given to me in some small part through my boy scouting. Nature is God's art.